

Rope Rescue Technician

(NFPA 1006: Rope Rescue,
Awareness/Operations/Technician)

Instructor Task Book (2021)



California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Office of the State Fire Marshal
State Fire Training

Overview

Authority

This instructor task book includes the training standards set forth in:

- NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications (2021)

Published: February 2024

Published by: State Fire Training, PO Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Cover photo courtesy of Donald Chen, Donald Chen, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department.

Purpose

The State Fire Training instructor task book is a performance-based document. It lists the minimum requirements a candidate must meet to teach a specific State Fire Training course or course series.

Assumptions

Except for Fire Fighter and Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT) certifications, a candidate may begin the task book initiation process upon completion of all required education components (courses).

Each job performance requirement (JPR) shall be evaluated after the candidate initiates the task book.

State Fire Training task books do not count towards the NWCG task book limit. There is no limit to the number of State Fire Training task books a candidate may pursue at one time if the candidate meets the initiation requirements for each.

It is the candidate's responsibility to routinely check the State Fire Training website for updates to an initiated task book. All State Fire Training issued updates to an initiated task book are required for task book completion.

A candidate must complete a task book within three years of its initiation date. Otherwise, a candidate must initiate a new task book using the curriculum's current published version.

Roles and Responsibilities

Candidate

The candidate is the individual pursuing instructor registration.

Initiation

The candidate shall:

1. Complete the Initiation Requirements section.
 - Please print.
2. Complete a block on the Signature Verification page with a handwritten signature.

Completion

The candidate shall:

1. Complete all Job Performance Requirements.
 - Ensure that an evaluator initials, signs, and dates each task to verify completion.
2. Complete the Completion Requirements section.
3. Sign and date the Candidate verification section on the Review and Approval page with a handwritten signature.
4. Obtain their fire chief's handwritten (not stamped) signature on the Fire Chief verification section on the Review and Approval page.
5. Create and retain a physical or high-resolution digital copy of the completed task book.

Submission

The candidate shall:

1. Submit a copy (physical or digital) of the completed task book and any supporting documentation to State Fire Training.
 - See Submission and Review below.

A candidate should not submit a task book until they have completed all requirements and obtained all signatures. State Fire Training will reject and return an incomplete task book.

Evaluator

An evaluator is any individual who verifies that the candidate can satisfactorily execute a job performance requirement (JPR).

A qualified evaluator is a Registered Rope Rescue Technician Instructor designated by the candidate's fire chief (or authorized designee). For instructor task books that do not require fire chief initiation, academy instructors serve as or designate evaluators.

All evaluators shall:

1. Complete a block on the Signature Verification page with a handwritten signature.
2. Review and understand the candidate's instructor task book requirements and responsibilities.
3. Verify the candidate's successful completion of one or more job performance requirements through observation.
 - Do not evaluate any job performance requirement (JPR) until after the candidate initiates the task book.
 - Sign all appropriate lines in the instructor task book with a handwritten signature or approved digital signature (e.g., DocuSign or Adobe Sign; a scanned copy of a signature is not acceptable) to record demonstrated performance of tasks.

Fire Chief

The fire chief is the individual who initiates (when applicable) and then reviews and confirms the completion of a candidate's instructor task book.

A fire chief may identify an authorized designee already on file with State Fire Training to fulfill any task book responsibilities assigned to the fire chief. (See *State Fire Training Procedures Manual*, 4.2.2: Authorized Signatories)

Initiation

The fire chief shall:

1. Review and understand the candidate's instructor task book requirements and responsibilities.
2. Complete a block on the Signature Verification page with a handwritten signature.
3. Designate qualified evaluators.

Completion

The fire chief shall:

1. Confirm that the candidate has obtained the appropriate signatures to verify successful completion of each job performance requirement.
 - Ensure that all job performance requirements were evaluated after the initiation date.
2. Confirm that the candidate meets the Completion Requirements.

3. Sign and date the Fire Chief verification statement under Review and Approval with a handwritten signature.
 - If signing as an authorized designee, verify that your signature is on file with State Fire Training.

Submission and Review

A candidate should not submit a task book until they have completed all requirements and obtained all signatures. State Fire Training will reject and return an incomplete task book.

To submit a completed task book, please send the following items to the address below:

1. A copy of the completed task book (candidate may retain the original)
2. All supporting documentation
3. Payment

State Fire Training

Attn: Instructor Registration

PO Box 944246

Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

State Fire Training reviews all submitted task books.

- If the task book is complete, State Fire Training will authorize the task book and retain a digital copy of the authorized task book in the candidate's career file.
- If the task book is incomplete, State Fire Training will return the task book with a notification indicating what needs to be completed prior to resubmission.

Completion of this instructor task book is one step in the instructor registration process. Please refer to the *State Fire Training Procedures Manual* for the complete list of qualifications required to teach Rope Rescue Technician (2021).

Initiation Requirements

The following requirements must be completed prior to initiating this task book.

Candidate Information

Name: _____

SFT ID Number: _____

Fire Agency: _____

Initiation Date: _____

Prerequisites

The candidate meets one of the following prerequisites.

1. OSFM Instructor 1, Training Instructor I, or Fire Instructor I certification
2. OSFM Registered Instructor

Include documentation to verify prerequisite requirements when you submit your instructor task book unless verification is already documented in your SFT User Portal.

Education

The candidate has completed the following courses.

1. Rope Rescue Technician (SFT or FEMA*)

* FEMA candidates must also be an OSFM Registered Instructor.

Include documentation to verify education requirements when you submit your instructor task book unless verification is already documented in your SFT User Portal.

Fire Chief Approval

State Fire Training confirms that a fire chief's approval is not required to initiate this task book.

Signature Verification

The following individuals have the authority to verify portions of this instructor task book using the signature recorded below.

Please print except for the Signature line where a handwritten signature is required.
Add additional signature pages as needed.

Name: _____
Job Title: _____
Organization: _____
Signature: _____

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Organization: _____
Signature: _____

Job Performance Requirements

Job Performance Requirements

The candidate must complete each job performance requirement (JPR) in accordance with the standards of the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) or the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), whichever is more restrictive.

When California requirements exceed or require revision to the NFPA standard, the corresponding Office of the State Fire Marshal approved (OSFM) additions or revisions appear shaded in gray.

All JPRs must be completed within a California fire agency or State Fire Training Accredited Regional Training Programs (ARTP).

Each JPR shall be evaluated after the candidate initiates the task book.

Each task must be performed twice.

- The two instances must occur during two different courses.
- The same evaluator cannot sign off on the same task twice.
- In the tables, E1 represents the candidate's first evaluation and E2 represents their second evaluation.

Examples of correct and incorrect evaluation:

Correct: Task completed during two separate courses and evaluated by two separate individuals.

1. Assemble a comprehensive burn plan ("burn book") that contains all documentation necessary to conduct a live fire training evolution in accordance with NFPA standards and the policies and procedures of State Fire Training (SFT) and the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ).	Course Code (E1)	Date (E1)	Initials (E1)	Course Code (E2)	Date (E2)	Initials (E2)
a. Describe purpose of a live fire burn plan	AAA123	2/8/18	JAS	BBB123	5/15/18	CWJ
b. Identify components of a live fire burn plan ("burn book")	AAA123	2/8/18	JAS	BBB123	5/15/18	CWJ
c. Identify records-retention requirements for burn plans	AAA123	2/8/18	JAS	BBB123	5/15/18	CWJ

Incorrect: Task completed twice during one course but evaluated by two separate individuals.

1. Assemble a comprehensive burn plan (“burn book”) that contains all documentation necessary to conduct a live fire training evolution in accordance with NFPA standards and the policies and procedures of State Fire Training (SFT) and the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ).	Course Code (E1)	Date (E1)	Initials (E1)	Course Code (E2)	Date (E2)	Initials (E2)
a. Describe purpose of a live fire burn plan	AAA123	2/8/18	JAS	AAA123	2/8/18	CWJ
b. Identify components of a live fire burn plan (“burn book”)	AAA123	2/8/18	JAS	AAA123	2/8/18	CWJ
c. Identify records-retention requirements for burn plans	AAA123	2/8/18	JAS	AAA123	2/8/18	CWJ

Incorrect: Task completed during two separate courses but evaluated by the same individual.

1. Assemble a comprehensive burn plan (“burn book”) that contains all documentation necessary to conduct a live fire training evolution in accordance with NFPA standards and the policies and procedures of State Fire Training (SFT) and the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ).	Course Code (E1)	Date (E1)	Initials (E1)	Course Code (E2)	Date (E2)	Initials (E2)
a. Describe purpose of a live fire burn plan	AAA123	2/8/18	JAS	BBB123	5/15/18	JAS
b. Identify components of a live fire burn plan (“burn book”)	AAA123	2/8/18	JAS	BBB123	5/15/18	JAS
c. Identify records-retention requirements for burn plans	AAA123	2/8/18	JAS	BBB123	5/15/18	JAS

Rope Rescue Technician Instructor

Course Administration and Application

1. Course administration and orientation	Course Code (E1)	Date (E1)	Initials (E1)	Course Code (E2)	Date (E2)	Initials (E2)
a. Complete and submit course scheduling request						
b. Order student textbooks (if applicable)						
c. Identify facility requirements						
d. Confirm facilities set up and safety						
e. Identify classroom requirements						
f. Confirm equipment (based on number of students)						
g. Complete instructor assignments						
h. Organize skill stations (location, equipment, timing, complexity)						
i. Confirm prop set up and safety						
j. Complete class rosters						
k. Review course syllabus						

Introduction to Rope Rescue

2. Introduction to Rope Rescue (Topic 2-1)	Course Code (E1)	Date (E1)	Initials (E1)	Course Code (E2)	Date (E2)	Initials (E2)
a. Define “low-angle” rope rescue						
b. Define “high-angle” rope rescue						
c. Describe terrain and features common to the AHJ where rope rescue might be necessary						
d. Describe how rope rescue skills are integrated into other technical rescue disciplines						
e. Identify factors that determine incident complexity						
3. Standards and Regulations (Topic 2-2)	Course Code (E1)	Date (E1)	Initials (E1)	Course Code (E2)	Date (E2)	Initials (E2)
a. Identify industry standards applicable to rope rescue						
b. Identify industry regulations applicable to rope rescue						
c. Describe how Cal/OSHA 3270.1 applies						
d. Identify AHJ policies and procedures						

PPE and Equipment

4. Select, Use, Inspect, and Maintain PPE and Rescue Equipment (Topic 3-1)	Course Code (E1)	Date (E1)	Initials (E1)	Course Code (E2)	Date (E2)	Initials (E2)
a. Describe functions, construction, and operation of PPE						

b. Describe equipment certification, testing, and rating standards						
c. Describe functions and operations of rescue equipment						
d. Describe how to select and use maintenance tools						
e. Describe methods for cleaning tools and equipment						
f. Describe replacement protocols and procedures						
g. Identify when and how to remove tools and equipment from service						
h. Describe disposal methods						
i. Describe AHJ standard operating procedures						
j. Describe how to use record-keeping systems						
k. Describe guidelines for cleaning, inspecting, and maintaining tools and equipment						
l. Describe how to select, use, and maintain tools and equipment						
5. Demonstrate Knots, Bends, and Hitches (Topic 3-2)	Course Code (E1)	Date (E1)	Initials (E1)	Course Code (E2)	Date (E2)	Initials (E2)
a. Describe rope and webbing types						
b. Identify rope terminology						
c. Describe knot efficiency						
d. Describe when and how to use knots, bends, and hitches						
e. Tie representative knots, bends, and hitches						

Incident Size Up, Planning, and Support

6. Size Up a Rope Rescue Incident (Topic 4-1)	Course Code (E1)	Date (E1)	Initials (E1)	Course Code (E2)	Date (E2)	Initials (E2)
a. Describe components of a rope rescue size up						
b. Describe a risk/benefit assessment						
c. Describe types of reference materials and their uses						
d. Describe availability and capability of resources						
e. Describe elements of an incident action plan and related information						
f. Describe relationship of size-up to the incident management system						
g. Describe information gathering techniques and how that information is used in the size-up process						
h. Describe basic search criteria for rope rescue incidents						
i. Read technical rescue reference materials						
j. Gather information						
k. Relay information						
l. Use information-gathering sources						
7. Recognize Incident Hazards and Initiate Isolation Procedures (Topic 4-2)	Course Code (E1)	Date (E1)	Initials (E1)	Course Code (E2)	Date (E2)	Initials (E2)
a. Describe types and natures of incident hazards						
b. Describe resource capabilities and limitations						

c. Describe equipment types and their use						
d. Describe hazard recognition and terminology						
e. Describe isolation terminology, methods, equipment, and implementation						
f. Identify operational requirement concerns						
g. Describe common types of rescuer and victim risk						
h. Describe risk/benefit analysis considerations						
i. Describe methods for controlling access to the scene						
j. Describe types of technical references						
k. Identify resource capabilities and limitations						
l. Identify incident hazards						
m. Assess potential hazards to rescuers and bystanders						
n. Place scene control barriers						
o. Operate control and mitigation equipment						
8. Conduct a System Safety Check (Topic 4-3)	Course Code (E1)	Date (E1)	Initials (E1)	Course Code (E2)	Date (E2)	Initials (E2)
a. Describe system safety check procedures						
b. Perform a system safety check						

Anchor Systems

9. Construct Tensioned Anchor Systems (Topic 5-1)	Course Code (E1)	Date (E1)	Initials (E1)	Course Code (E2)	Date (E2)	Initials (E2)
a. Describe anchor selection criteria						
b. Describe weight distribution issues and methods						
c. Describe load types						
d. Describe formulas to calculate load distribution						
e. Describe how to construct anchor slings						
f. Describe types and uses of tensioned anchor systems						
g. Describe application of knots, bends, and hitches						
h. Describe system safety check procedures						
i. Construct tensioned anchors						
10. Construct, Operate, and Direct the Operation of a High-Directional (Topic 5-2)	Course Code (E1)	Date (E1)	Initials (E1)	Course Code (E2)	Date (E2)	Initials (E2)
a. Describe the purpose of a high directional						
b. Describe types of and uses for high-directionals						
c. Describe how to construct a high directional						
d. Describe how to operate a high directional						
e. Identify the type of high-directional needed for different scenarios						
f. Construct, operate, and direct the operation of a high-directional						

Rescue Skills

11. Descend a Fixed Rope (Topic 6-1)	Course Code (E1)	Date (E1)	Initials (E1)	Course Code (E2)	Date (E2)	Initials (E2)
a. Describe task-specific selection criteria for PPE and life safety harnesses and systems for descending a fixed rope						
b. Describe descent control devices						
c. Describe safe rigging principles						
d. Describe descending techniques						
e. Describe hazards associated with descending operations						
f. Select and use rescuer harnesses, a system for descending a fixed rope, and PPE for common environments						
g. Attach life safety harness to the rope rescue system						
h. Attach descent control device to rope and life safety harness						
i. Operate descent control device						
j. Maneuver around existing environment and system-specific obstacles						
k. Evaluate surroundings for potential hazards						
12. Ascend a Fixed Rope (Topic 6-2)	Course Code (E1)	Date (E1)	Initials (E1)	Course Code (E2)	Date (E2)	Initials (E2)
a. Describe task-specific selection criteria for PPE and life safety harnesses and systems for ascending a fixed rope						
b. Describe ascent control devices						
c. Describe rigging principles						

d. Describe ascending techniques						
e. Describe common hazards associated with ascending operations						
f. Describe how to convert ascending systems to descending systems						
g. Select and use rescuer harnesses, a system for ascending a fixed rope, and PPE for common environments						
h. Attach life safety harness to rope rescue system						
i. Configure ascent control devices to form a system for ascending a fixed rope						
j. Make connections to ascending system						
k. Maneuver around existing environment and system-specific obstacles						
l. Convert ascending system to a descending system while suspended from the fixed rope						
m. Evaluate surroundings for potential hazards						
13. Escape from a Jammed or Malfunctioning Device (Topic 6-3)	Course Code (E1)	Date (E1)	Initials (E1)	Course Code (E2)	Date (E2)	Initials (E2)
a. Describe task-specific selection criteria for PPE, equipment, and methods used to escape a jammed or malfunctioning descent control device						
b. Describe escape systems						
c. Describe safe rigging principles						
d. Describe escape techniques for high-angle environments						
e. Describe common hazards posed by malfunctioning descent control devices						

f. Select and use rescuer harness, a system for escaping a malfunctioning descent control device, and PPE for common environments						
g. Attach life safety harness to rope rescue system						
h. Attach descent control device to rope and life safety harness						
i. Attach and operate escape system to remove rescuer from malfunctioning descent control device while maintaining patent attachment to fixed rope and belay						
j. Use escape system to maneuver upward or downward from malfunctioning descent control device						
k. Evaluate surroundings for potential hazards						
14. Climb and Traverse Natural Features or Manmade Structures (Topic 6-4)	Course Code (E1)	Date (E1)	Initials (E1)	Course Code (E2)	Date (E2)	Initials (E2)
a. Describe climbing, positioning, and fall prevention equipment used by AHJ						
b. Describe climbing, positioning, and fall prevention systems						
c. Describe system safety check protocol						
d. Perform system safety checks						
e. Climb vertical or near-vertical paths using surfaces provided by environment or AHJ climbing aids						
f. Transition horizontally between structural elements and rescue system						

Rescue Operations

15. Interact with a Person at Height in Crisis (Topic 7-1)	Course Code (E1)	Date (E1)	Initials (E1)	Course Code (E2)	Date (E2)	Initials (E2)
a. Identify indicators of a person in emotional crisis						
b. Identify typical triggers that can cause individuals to become agitated or anxious						
c. Describe methods of interacting to prevent harm to rescuer and subject						
d. Describe best practices to deescalate incidents involving persons in crisis						
e. Describe AHJ crisis-intervention resources						
f. Use methods of approach that minimize the risk to the rescuer						
16. Remove a Victim from a Feature (Topic 7-2)	Course Code (E1)	Date (E1)	Initials (E1)	Course Code (E2)	Date (E2)	Initials (E2)
a. Describe PPE selection and criteria						
b. Describe techniques for handling stranded victims without inducing a fall						
c. Describe how to access a victim						
d. Describe techniques and systems for safe transfer of stranded victims from a natural or manmade feature						
e. Describe system safety check protocol						
f. Determine condition of the stranded victim						
g. Determine specialized equipment needs for victim movement						

h. Select and construct systems for rapid removal of stranded victims from natural or manmade features						
i. Manage operation of selected system						
17. Remove a Victim Suspended from Rope of Webbing (Topic 7-3)	Course Code (E1)	Date (E1)	Initials (E1)	Course Code (E2)	Date (E2)	Initials (E2)
a. Describe PPE selection and criteria						
b. Describe how to access a victim						
c. Describe various techniques for handling suspended victims						
d. Describe transfer systems						
e. Describe techniques for safe transfer to rope rescue system						
f. Describe principles, causes, and effects of suspension-induced injuries						
g. Describe methods to minimize common environmental hazards						
h. Describe system safety check protocol						
i. Choose victim transfer systems						
j. Select and use PPE appropriate to conditions						
k. Reduce hazards for rescuers and victims						
l. Determine condition of suspended victim						
m. Determine specialized equipment needs for victim movement						
n. Select and construct systems for rapid removal of victims from lanyards, rope, or webbing						
o. Manage operation of the selected system						

p. Transfer victim from a static line to lowering or raising system						
18. Rescue a Victim Using a Litter (Topic 7-4)	Course Code (E1)	Date (E1)	Initials (E1)	Course Code (E2)	Date (E2)	Initials (E2)
a. Describe task-specific selection criteria for life safety harnesses						
b. Describe PPE selection criteria						
c. Describe litters						
d. Describe high-angle litter attachment principles						
e. Describe how to package a victim in a litter						
f. Describe techniques and practices for high-angle environments						
g. Describe common hazards imposed by environment						
h. Describe system safety check protocol						
i. Select and use rescuer harness and PPE for common environments						
j. Attach life safety harness to rope rescue system						
k. Maneuver litter past obstacles or natural structural features						
l. Manage litter while attached to rope rescue system						
m. Demonstrate tender's vertical positioning independent of litter during transit						
n. Evaluate surroundings for potential hazards						
19. Move a Suspended Load Along a Horizontal and Vertical Path (Topic 7-5)	Course Code (E1)	Date (E1)	Initials (E1)	Course Code (E2)	Date (E2)	Initials (E2)

a. Describe the purpose of a high-line system						
b. Describe types of high-line systems						
c. Describe various systems						
d. Describe how to evaluate site for hazards, interference, and obstacle negotiation						
e. Describe how to construct a high-line system						
f. Describe common problems and ways to minimize these problems during construction						
g. Describe ways to increase the efficiency of load movement						
h. Describe how to operate a high-line system						
i. Describe how to direct the operation of a high-line system						
j. Construct, operate, and direct the operation of a system to move a suspended load horizontally and vertically						

Application

20. Set Up, Demonstrate, and Oversee Drill Ground Operations and/or Demonstrations	Course Code (E1)	Date (E1)	Initials (E1)	Course Code (E2)	Date (E2)	Initials (E2)
a. Demonstrate an end-of-line loop						
b. Demonstrate a midline loop						
c. Demonstrate securing rope around desired objects						
d. Demonstrate joining rope or webbing ends together						
e. Demonstrate friction hitches						

f. Size up a rope rescue incident						
g. Recognize incident hazards and initiate isolation procedures						
h. Conduct a system safety check						
i. Construct a pretensioned back tie anchor system						
j. Construct a front tie anchor system						
k. Construct a focused floating anchor system						
l. Construct a deflected anchor system						
m. Construct an artificial high directional						
n. Operate an artificial high directional						
o. Direct the operation of a high directional						
p. Descend a fixed rope in a high-angle environment						
q. Lock-off a descent control device (to facilitate hands-free operations)						
r. Descend past a knot or obstruction						
s. Ascend a fixed rope in a high-angle environment						
t. Convert an ascending system to a descending system while suspended from the fixed rope						
u. Ascend past a knot or obstruction						
v. Climb a vertical or near-vertical path using a 100% tie off or vertical lifeline fall protection system						
w. Transition horizontally between structural elements and rescue system using a 100% tie off fall protection system						
x. Place and use work positioning equipment permitting the rescuer to perform a task						

y. Rescue a victim stranded on or clinging to a natural or manmade feature in a high-angle environment						
z. Transfer a victim suspended from rope or webbing in a high-angle environment from a static line to a lowering or raising system (rescuer suspended)						
aa. Tend a litter, including positioning above and below the litter, in a high-angle environment						
bb. Construct a high-line capable of horizontal and vertical movement						
cc. Move a suspended rescue load horizontally and vertically on a high-line system						
dd. Direct the operation of a high-line system						

Completion Requirements

The following requirements must be completed prior to submitting this task book.

Experience

The candidate meets the following experience requirements.

- Have a minimum of three years' full-time or six years' volunteer or part-time paid suppression/rescue experience in a recognized fire agency in California

Agency	Experience	Start Date	End Date

Include documentation to verify prerequisite requirements when you submit your instructor task book unless verification is already documented in your SFT User Portal.

Position

State Fire Training confirms that there are no position requirements for instructor registration.

Updates

The candidate has completed and enclosed all updates to this instructor task book released by State Fire Training since its initial publication.

Number of enclosed updates: _____

Completion Timeframe

A candidate must complete a task book within three years of its initiation date. Otherwise, a candidate must initiate a new task book using the curriculum's current published version.

Initiation Date (see Initiation Date under Initiation Requirements): _____

Review and Approval

Candidate

Candidate (please print): _____

I, the undersigned, am the person applying to teach Rope Rescue Technician. I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that the completion of all requirements documented herein is true in every respect. I understand that misstatements, omissions of material facts, or falsification of information or documents may be cause for rejection or revocation.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Fire Chief

Candidate's Fire Chief (please print): _____

I, the undersigned, am the person authorized to verify the candidate's qualifications to teach Rope Rescue Technician. I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that the completion of all requirements documented herein are true in every respect. I understand that misstatements, omissions of material facts, or falsification of information or documents may be cause for rejection.

Signature: _____ Date: _____